



U.S. Department of Justice

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May 27, 2005

Event: Sentencing

Defendant: Seth David Spann, 21 of Detroit

Detroit Man sentenced to 137 Months federal firearm and drug charges

A 27 year-old Detroit man was sentenced to 137 months in prison after pleading guilty to federal firearm and drug charges, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy and Special Agent in Charge Valerie J. Goddard, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) announced today.

Seth David Spann was sentenced on May 26, 2005, by U.S. District Judge Robert H. Cleland in federal court in Detroit.

This case is one of the more than 300 that have been referred to the U.S. Attorney's Office for prosecution under a Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative that provides for the referral of gun cases by local prosecutors in those instances in which federal law provides for a substantially higher sentence.

On May 7, 2004, SPANN was arrested by officers of the Detroit Police Department after they observed SPANN at a gas station. SPANN exited his vehicle and tossed an empty beer

bottle into the trash. SPANN appeared intoxicated and was uncooperative with the officers. Upon entering SPANN's vehicle, officers found additional open intoxicants along with a loaded Glock .40 caliber semi-automatic handgun on the floor of the vehicle, twenty-seven (27) rocks of crack cocaine and small bag of marijuana in the console.

SPANN has a prior criminal history dating back to age 18. His prior convictions include Unarmed Robbery, Misdemeanor Larceny and Misdemeanor Possession of Marijuana. SPANN was on parole at the time of his arrest and his driver's license had been suspended.

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the efforts of agents of ATF and officers of the Detroit Police Department for their diligent work on this case. "The SPANN case came to our office through the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. This sentence of over 10 years is just one example of how the U.S. Attorney's office will not relent when it comes to combating gun and drug violators."

ATF SAC Goddard stated, "The conviction and lengthy sentence in this case highlights the significance Project Safe Neighborhoods plays in our fight to keep guns and violent offenders off the street."

U.S. Attorney Murphy commended the efforts of agents of ATF, officers of the Detroit Police Department and Assistant U.S. Attorney Susan Gillooly for their diligent work on this case.

For questions regarding the Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Eastern District of Michigan please contact Peggy Goodwin, The Goodwin Co. at 248-543-3891.